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In view of the possibility of cholera making its appearance in the Caucasus and in the immediate neighborhood of Batoum, I would request that I might be favored with any special instructions in respect to disinfection or other precautionary measures which it may be my duty to carry out or to communicate to merchants in the habit of shipping goods to the United States.

[Inclosure]

Translation of an extract taken from the Tiflis newspaper Kavkaz of August 26, old style, 1904.

The newspaper Askhabad gives the following official details with reference to cholera in the trans-Caspian district.

August 18.—At Merv 4 cases occurred among the troops stationed there, 1 of which was fatal. Of the civilians 3 died, 1 recovered, and there was 1 fresh case.

August 19.—In the military and town hospitals there were 4 cases.

At Kaakhka there were no cases among the troops; among the civilians there was 1 case. No deaths took place.

Two Russian women were taken ill at Askhabad on this day, one of whom died, with symptoms pointing to cholera. Along the railway line at Merv, the watchman of the depot fell ill on the 17th instant, apparently with cholera, and at the same place to-day the wife of a pointsman was also taken ill, and further, at the railway station at Kaakhka on this date one gendarme and several workmen were taken suddenly ill.

At Kaakhka, from August 12 to 17, inclusive, there were 11 cases, 5 of which were fatal.

At Tedjen, on the 12th, there was 1 case, death taking place the day following. There have been no fresh cases.

At Merv, from August 11 to 17, there were 21 cases, of which 12 were fatal.

At Bairam-Ali, from the 14th to the 17th, there were 8 cases; 4 resulted in death. No fresh cases to report on the 17th.

At Merv, on August 17, 1 case occurred among the troops and 3 among civilians; no deaths. On the morning of the 18th instant there were 54 cholera patients in the military hospital, and in the town hospital 8. On the same date at Kaakhka 1 soldier was taken ill; among civilians, no fresh cases. Deaths, 1 civilian and 1 soldier.

At New Bokhara, on the night of the 16th instant, 1 Hebrew was taken ill with cholera and died same day. No other cases.

It is proposed to establish a medical observation station on the island of Tchelekhen.

A bacteriological examination made by Doctor Nadporoshski on the evacuations of a Persian who died under suspicious circumstances at Askhabad on August 19, gave sad results; cholera bacilli were clearly shown on the cultures developed in bouillon.

It is therefore scientifically proven that cholera has appeared in Askhabad.

VENEZUELA.

Report from Maracaibo—Uncinariasis.

Consul Plumacher reports, September 8, as follows:

I had the pleasure of reading about the work of Dr. Bailly K. Ashford, captain and assistant surgeon of the U. S. Army, and of Dr. W. W.

King, assistant surgeon, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, stationed at Porto Rico, and their efforts to conquer the widespread disease of Porto Rico, known as anemia.

These authors are of opinion that what many South American physicians call anemia is in fact uncinariasis.

I have devoted the many years of my service in Venezuela to the study of leprosy, and it is but natural that I should meet with many cases which I think had their origin in anemia, or which may have been "uncinariasis." The day will come when we will fathom these strange diseases which are a curse to all tropical countries, and I shall be happy to see our countrymen at Porto Rico succeed in their researches. I am of opinion that anemia has made much progress among the people of the Spanish Main. To make a living twenty-five years ago was in my opinion much easier for the common people, as I think that they are to-day less well fed, and many suffer privations; the result is more anemia. I laid the work of Dr. Baily Ashford before some of our best physicians and they begged me to use my official influence to get into connection with the Porto Rico doctors through our consulate. They seem to think that it may throw much light upon diseases in Venezuela. I am to-day in communication with Capt. Baily K. Ashford, and have sent to him in a box by mail all that he needs to find out about this class of disease in Venezuela.

I shall report on this subject of great importance as soon as I hear from Porto Rico. It may be that the investigation of these learned gentlemen in Porto Rico will have a most salutary influence upon the people of the Spanish Main. The whole coast is suffering with this disease.

WEST INDIES.

Report from Barbados—Inspection and fumigation of vessels—Sanitary conditions of island good.

Assistant Surgeon Ward reports, September 19, as follows:

During the week ended September 17, 1904, I inspected 8 steamships and 3 sailing vessels bound to ports in the United States, with 399 crew, 71 cabin and 93 steerage passengers, of whom 2 of the crew, 14 cabin and 50 steerage passengers were taken on at this port. I advised the rejection of a person suffering from a loathsome disease wishing to ship as third-class passenger from Barbados to the United States; the passage was refused.

The bill of health of the Republic of Panama issued at this port to the Royal Mail steamship *Tagus* from Southampton bound to Colon, via ports in the West Indies, with 165 crew and 212 passengers, was viséed, and certificates of vaccination were issued to 8 of the deck passengers for Colon.

During the week I fumigated and issued certificates to the following vessels: The French steamship *Admiral Fourichon* on September 11, from Santos via Rio de Janeiro, bound to New Orleans with a cargo of coffee, 44 crew, all well, no passengers; the British steamship *Ramore Head* on September 12, from Para, bound to Galveston in water ballast, 37 crew, all well, no passengers; and the British steamship *Basil* on September 17, from Para, bound to Galveston in water ballast, 36 crew, all well, no passengers.

The general sanitary condition of Barbados remains good; no quarantinable diseases have been reported.